UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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FROM

: Legal Counsel

: Director

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Director's Sec'y _ FOI BRIEFING FOR CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS

To advise of numerous requests by Congressional staff PURPOSE: members for briefing on the Bureau's FOIA problems.

By letter dated 3/2/79, Robert McClory, Illinois (attached), offered his assistance concerning FOI. Attached to your response to him dated 3/13/79 (attached), you instructed "to coordinate a response with our people who are sitting on the task force." We have contacted Congressman McClory's staff and advised them that a briefing will be arranged for Thursday, 3/15/79 at 3:00 p.m. Two other staff members from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelli-, have inquired about the gence, Bill Leece and same briefing.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has requested a 🎶 similar briefing for the following staffers: Bob McNamara, , and InteNigence requested the same briefing for representatives of Senator Bayh and Senator Biden.

House Judiciary has requested the same briefing for Two other committees, Governmental Affairs in the Senate and Government Operations in the House are expected to send representatives.

Unit Chief, FOIPA branch, has been contacted and arrangements have been made for the branch to provide a briefing to the above staff members on Thursday, 3/15/79, in which the FBI's operations concerning FOIA will be discussed as well as problems. It is thought that a number of the issues discussed by you at your appearance on 2/28/79 before the Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights will be discussed. MAR 23 1979

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Memorandum Legal Counsel to Director Re: FOI BRIEFING FOR CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That the above bri	APPROVED: Director Assoc. Dir. Dep. AD Adm. Dep. AD Inv.	Adm. Serv. Crim. Inv. Ident. Intell. Laboratory	Legal Coun. Plan, & Insp. Rec Mgnt. Tech. Servs. Training Public Affs. Off.
(2) That Legal Liaiso coordinate with Records Manage the meeting for Thursday, 3/15/	ment Division		
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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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ROBERT McCLORY 13TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

ROOM 2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING (202) 225-5221

RANKING PEPUBLICAN JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

U.S. INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION DELEGATION

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

March 2, 1979

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FBI/DOJ

Honorable William J. Webster, Director Federal Bureau of Investigation J. Edgar Hoover Building Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Judge Webster:

NI am writing in regard to the impact of the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act (FOI/PA) on the operations of the FBI.

I share the concerns on this matter which you have expressed throughout your first year in office and am strongly desirous of working with you to have enacted legislation to remedy this troubling situation. One specific suggestion you have made in which I am particularly interested regards permitting only those FBI records which are more than a certain number of years old.

I would appreciate you sharing with me any proposals that you feel the Congress should consider in a review of the FOI/PA. Perhaps one productive route might be to take up such consideration during the authorization process in the Judiciary Committee.

The criticisms of the FOI/PA which you raise are certainly quite reasonable: and it is my sincere hope that the Congress will respond with definite actions in the near future.

Member of Congress Member of

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ENCLOSUS 62-10522A-

March 13, 1979

2 - Mr. Bassett - Enc. 2 - Mr. Mintz - Enc. Atten: Mr. Moschella

1 - Mr. Steel - Enc.

1 - Mr. Bresson - Enc.

1 - Mr. Ross - Enc.

1 - Mr. Miller - Enc.

Honorable Robert McClory House of Representatives Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman McClory:

Thank you for your letter of Harch 2nd in which you expressed an interest in the impact of the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act on the operations of the PBI. It is encouraging to know you share my concerns on this matter.

If you have no objection, a member of my staff will arrange to meet with you or a member of your staff to discuss this legislation.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Webster Director

NOTE: Office of Congressional Affairs, Legal Counsel Division, will hand deliver this letter and arrange for a meeting to be held in the immediate future.

JDM:law (9)

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